Packaging of Cement/Fertilisers in HDPE/PP bags

2472. SHR IBANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that HDPE/PP bags are more suitable for packaging of cement, fertilizers and other such items which are prone to pilferage in transport leading to malpractice affecting the common consumer in the country;

(b) whether Government have received representation for exempting these industries from the order of compulsory packaging;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how far Government propose to accede to their representations?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) Perceptions differ in this matter and no final consensus has emerged as yet. Various study reports (like National Council for Cement and Building Materials) establish that see page loss occurs in case of both HDPE and jute bags & is only marginally higher (about 0.4 per cent) in case of jute bags.

(b) to (d) Yes Sir. Representations have been received from the Cement Manufacturers Association. The reasons advanced by the Association, inter-alia, are high Cement seepage in jute bags, loss of strength in transit and storage, difficulty in identification, dust pollution at packaging and handling point, more expensive than plastic woven bags, consumer preference to plastic woven bags. The Association had made similar submissions before the Standing Advisory Committee which heard the representatives of various user industries. The Committee submitted its recommendations before the Government. Government has approved continuance of the Mandat Use of Jute Packaging in respect of Foodgrains, Sugar and Urea but deferred the proposal pertaining to the use of jute in packaging of Cement.

Brahmaputra Board

2473. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) when the Brahmaputra Board was set up alongwith the mandate it enjoyed as per provisions of the Act, which gave rise to it;

(b) the work done by the Board and the corresponding expenditure incurred since inception with details thereof:

(c) whethesr it is a fact that for most part important posts in the Board were lying vacant since its inception:

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the proposed aition on the master plan and detailed project reports with details about implementing agencies, investment plan, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The Union Government constituted the Brahmaputra Board, a statutory body under an act of Parliament (46 of 1980) on 31st December, 1981. The Board was established to provide for the planning and integrated implementation of measures for the control of floods and bank erosion in both the Brahmaputra and Barak Valley and for matters connected therewith.

(b) Since its formation in 1981, the Brahmaputra Board has drawn up Master Plans for comprehensive flood management in both the Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys. Master Plan Part-I concerns the main stem of the Brahmaputra river. Master Plan Part-II concerns the river Barak and its

tributaries. The Master Plan Part-III covers 38 tributaries of the Brahmaputra and 8 rivers of Tripura, Master Plans Part-I and Part-II have been approved by the Union Government. Other Master Plans were circulated to different concerned North Eastern States for their views and comments and on the basis of their comments, modifications of Master Plans have been taken up by the Board.

The Board has prepared the Detailed Project Reports for Pagladiya Dam Project in Assam, Subansiri Dam Project and Dehang Dam Project in Arunachal Pradesh and Tipaimukh Dam Project in Assam, at Manipur and Mizoram border. The present status of these projects are:—

(i) The techno-economic and environmental clearance was accorded to Pagladiya Dam Project having an estimate of Rs. 480 crore. The legal clarification has been obtained from the Ministry of Law and they have opined that the Board can take up the construction work, operate and maintain simultaneously. This is under consultation with the Planning Commission for investment clearance.

(ii) The detailed project report (DPR) were prepared by Brahmaputra Board for Subansiri and Siang (Dehang) projects with installed capacity of 4800 MW and 20,000 MW. Due to strong reservation of Government of Arunachal Pradesh because of large scale submergence including important townships like Deporijo, Dumporijo and Tameng in respect of Subansiri and Yingkiong, Pugging in respect of Siang project, the investigation at three alternative sites for construction of moderately high dams has been taken up by Brahmaputra Board for Subansiri and Dehang projects. Survey and investigation at these new sites for Subansiri and Dehang Propects are scheduled to be completed in a period of three years.

(iii) Technical clearance subject to certain conditions was granted to Tipaimukh Dam Project costing Rs. 2899 crore. Project is held up in the absence of agreement amongst the States Assam, Miroram and Manipur.

Besides above, the Board is presently investigating seven more projects with proposed installed capacity of about 6000 MW which will also sufficiently moderate flood in Brahmaputra Valley.

The North Eastern Hydraulic and Allied Research Institution has been made operational during December, 1996, at a cost of Rs. 9.91 crore which will cater to various needs of multipurpose river valley projects of North East India.

Since formation of the Brahmaputra Board, an expenditure of Rs. 107.41 crore has been incurred till March, 1997.

(c) and (d) Only a few top level posts were lying vacant from time to time. All the top level posts have now been filled up except for one post of Chief Engineer (Level-I) and one for level-II. Action has been initiated for filling up these posts also.

(e) The Master Plans prepared by Brahmaputra Board suggested many viable long term and short term measures for flood management of North Eastern Region by way of constructing moderate to high dams at upper reaches of major tributaries of Break and Brahmaputra basin. The Brahmaputra Board has already identified 13 such projects. Out of which the Detailed Project Reports for Pagladiya in Assam and Tipaimukh (Assam, Manipur, Mizoporam border) have been prepared. Investigation for other project site, i.e. Donang Subansiri, Dehang, Noa Dehing; Kameng; Lohit (in Arunachal Pradesh), Jadukata, Someswari, Um-ni-got, Kulsi (in Meghalaya) and Bhairabi (in Mizporam) are taken up by the Board.

Brahmaputra Board will be the implementing agency for Pagladiya Dam Project and Harrang Drainage Development Scheme. As regard to investment Plan, these schemes/projects will be executed under Central Sector Projects.

Non-completion of major irrigation projects in Gujarat

2474. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some incomplete major irrigation projects in Gujarat which were started during the Fourth and Fifth Five Year Plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof and total amount spent on each of the projects so far;

(c) the amount required for completion of each of these projects;

(d) the action Government propose to take to arrange for the funds to complete these projects within a time frame; and

(e) whether Government propose to arrange funds from World Bank for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) A Statement giving details of six incomplete major irrigation projects of Gujarat taken up during the Fourth and Fifth Five Year Plans is enclosed (*See below*). Out of these six projects, five are proposed to be completed during the current financial year 1997-98.

(d) The State Government has asked for financial assistance from the Central Government under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme for four projects, namely Daman Ganga, Watrak, Karjan and Sukhi. An amount of Rs. 13 crores have been approved during the current financial year.

(e) There is no such proposal from the State Government.

Statement

Details of incomplete major projects of Gujarat started during IV & V Five Year Plans

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Plan in which Started	Financial Status (Rs. in crores)				Likely year of completion.
			Estt. Cost	Expdr. upto 3/97	Balance cost after 3/97	Outlay provided by State (1997-98)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Damanganga	IV	247.70	234.25	13.45	14.98	97-98
2.	Panam	IV	106.15	90.12	16 03	4.28	99-2000
3.	Sabarmati	IV	134.51	127.57	6 94	3.28	97-98
4.	Watrak	IV	66.11	64.93	1.18	1.87	97-98
5.	Karjan	V	275.98	277.51	..	8.10	97-98
6.	Sukhi	V	122 88	120 67	2.21	2.17	97-88